metro
PHILADELPHIA NO. 1 FREE DAILY IN TH
Tuesday, September 12, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPh

'INSECURE' FINALE MESSY

The last episode reminds us characters are flawed. 14

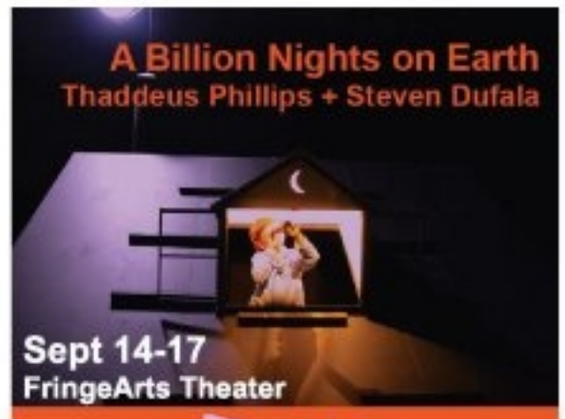
Can plants make you less anxious? 17

New Eagles, same story. Macnow's seen this all before. 18

AMAZON'S NEW HOME?

As Mayor Kenney prepares to woo Amazon to Philadelphia, some locals are concerned with the higher rents, gentrification and ruined sex lives that the mega-corporation might cause. 4

GETTY IMAGES, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



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WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

Is bringing another big business to Philly good news or not so much? That's the question after Mayor Jim Kenney threw enthusiastic support behind the idea of bringing Amazon's next headquarters to Philly. We've already got Comcast, but Amazon is looking for a second home city, and would create some 50,000 jobs, and in Seattle, they added nearly $40 billion to the economy in the last six years alone. But opponents say the corporate behemoth could increase gentrification and hurt local businesses. Read about the debate on page 4 and at **metro.us.**

TRUMP REFUGEE BAN RULING PUT ON HOLD

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy on Monday put a temporarily hold on limits imposed by a lower court on President Donald Trump's order barring most refugees from entering the United States. Kennedy acted in response to the U.S. Justice Department's challenge to the part of a Thursday ruling by the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that would let refugees from around the world enter the country if they have a formal offer from a resettlement agency. Without Kennedy's intervention, the appeals court decision would have gone into effect on Tuesday. Kennedy's action gives the full Supreme Court time to consider the merits of the Trump administration's emergency request in full. Kennedy asked refugee ban challengers to file a response by noon on Tuesday.

ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT PROBES COULD BACKFIRE

2 Republican lawmaker Devin Nunes' investigation into whether Obama administration officials used classified intelligence reports to discredit Donald Trump's 2016 campaign team could backfire on the congressman — and the president, sources familiar with the reports said. The reports contain no evidence that any aides to former Democratic President Barack Obama acted improperly, the sources said, but they do indicate some Trump associates may have violated an obscure 1799 law, the Logan Act, which prohibits unauthorized U.S. citizens from negotiating with a foreign government that has a dispute with the U.S. The spying reports also are relevant to the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into conclusions by U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia worked to tilt the election in Trump's favor.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

SOMBER MOMENT

3 A New York City Police Department (NYPD) officer pauses while visiting the North pool during a commemoration ceremony for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks at the National September 11 Memorial on Monday in New York City.

GETTY IMAGES

STATES SUE OVER TRUMP ACTION ON 'DREAMERS'

4 California and three other states sued President Donald Trump's administration over his decision to end protections for people brought to the United States illegally as children, the latest bid by Democratic state attorneys general to salvage the policy. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said Trump's move to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that protected these immigrants from deportation and gave them work permits would be "an economic travesty" for the most populous U.S. state, which depends on immigrant labor. Minnesota, Maryland and Maine joined California in filing the lawsuit in federal court in San Francisco. Trump last week said he would end the program, which was created in 2012 by his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama, effective in March.

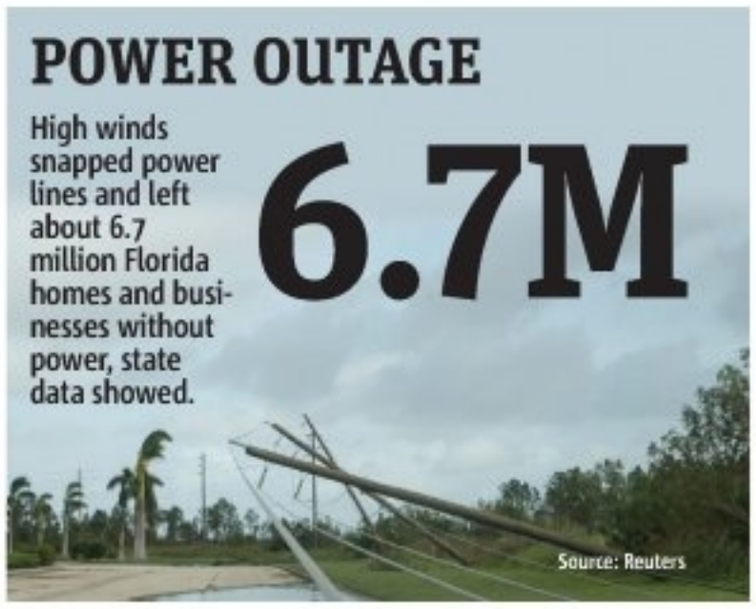
IVY LEAGUE GRADUATE CROWNED MISS AMERICA

5 An Ivy League graduate and national dance champion from North Dakota was crowned Miss America on Sunday, becoming the first contestant from the state to win the nearly 100-year-old contest. Cara Mund, from Bismarck, a graduate of Brown University in Rhode Island, who has been accepted to Notre Dame's law school, trained for several summers with the world-famous Rockettes. Mund, 23, was one of 51 contestants in the pageant, representing the 50 United States and the District of Columbia. Mund, who adopted the Make-a-Wish foundation which benefits children with life-threatening conditions as her platform for the competition, performed a jazz dance to "The Way You Make Me Feel" for the contest's talent portion, wearing a double-breasted black mini-dress with a matching fedora-type hat.

POWER OUTAGE

High winds snapped power lines and left about 6.7 million Florida homes and businesses without power, state data showed.

6.7M



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Does Philadelphia have room for Amazon HQ2?

Mayor Kenney will ask Amazon to set up their new headquarters here.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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sam.newhouse@metro.us

Remember when Amazon was just an online bookstore?

Now the mega-corporation led by Jeff Bezos, which sells basically everything under the sun, owns huge brands in other markets, including the Washington Post and Whole Foods.

With all that under their belt, it looks like it's time to expand.

Amazon announced last week that they are looking for a home for their second corporate headquarters, and many boosters of the local business community are saying Bezos and company should be packing their bags for Philly.

"We think Philadelphia would be a PRIME location for Amazon that would make people SMILE!" Mayor Jim Kenney tweeted. "Look forward to submitting a proposal!"

Kenney's got good reason to be supportive. HQ2 is an estimated $5 billion project that some say could bring as many as 50,000 jobs to Philadelphia, including executive positions. In their current hometown of Seattle, Amazon estimates they added some $38 billion to the city's economy between 2010 and 2016.

Curbed Philly rounded up the top-nine possible locations for Amazon's second HQ. They include the former life insurance company at 48th and Market, which the city rehabbed to the tune of $50 million with the intent of turning it into the police department's new headquarters. That plan was scrapped, and the building's future remains uncertain.

A group of job applicants starts a tour as Amazon holds a job fair at its fulfillment center in Fall River, Massachusetts, on Aug. 2, 2017. GETTY IMAGES

Other possible locations included developing office areas in Grays Ferry, the Schuylkill Yards, near 30th Street Station and the Navy Yard.

Amazon has some demands for its next home: proximity to colleges, good public transportation and a population of more than one million. Check, check and check, Philly.

Based on raw demographics, The New York Times ruled Philly out and found that Denver, Colorado, would be the best city for Amazon to move to.

Writing for Forbes, Adam Ozimek argued that raw demographics don't tell the whole story. He said Philly's construction and jobs boom since 2008 give it a momentum few other cities possess.

But Daily News columnist Will Bunch harshly criticized the proposal, saying Amazon would "screw Philly schoolkids" and "ruin Tinder," citing a blog post by a lovelorn Seattle woman who wrote after dating numerous Amazon employees that the company was "killing my sex life." He added that the company's presence could contribute to gentrification.

> *"We think Philadelphia would be a PRIME location for Amazon that would make people SMILE!"*
>
> Mayor Jim Kenney

"In Philadelphia, gentrification and rising rent and home prices have certainly been an issue, but nothing like what they've seen in places such as Seattle or San Francisco," Bunch wrote. "Amazon would change that equation in Philadelphia — and not for good."

Green Philly Blog, which promotes local environmental businesses and efforts, tweeted back at Kenney that Amazon is a bad idea for Philly: "Rather than promote a global company that kills local jobs, shouldn't we promote shopping at local Philly biz?" they wrote. "We vote no Amazon here."

Proposals are due Oct. 19, and a decision will be made in 2018.

Floridians return to storm-shattered homes

Storm-shocked Floridians returned to their shattered homes on Monday as the remnants of once-powerful Hurricane Irma pushed inland, leaving well over half of residents without power and flooding cities in the state's northeastern corner.

Downgraded to a tropical storm early on Monday, Irma once ranked as one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record days before barreling into the Florida Keys on Sunday and plowing northward along the Gulf Coast to wreak havoc across a wide swath of the state.

Especially hard hit was the resort archipelago of the Keys, extending into the Gulf of Mexico from the tip of Florida's peninsula and connected to the mainland by a single, narrow highway, Gov. Rick Scott told a news conference on Monday.

"There's devastation," he said, adding that virtually every mobile-home park on the island chain was left upended. "It's horrible what we saw."

In Miami, which escaped the worst of Irma's winds but experienced heavy flooding, residents in the city's Little Haiti neighborhood returned to the wreckage of trailer homes that were shredded by the storm.

"I wanted to cry, but this is what it is, this is life," Melida Hernandez, 67, who had ridden out the storm at a nearby church, said as she gazed at the ruins of her dwelling, split in two by a fallen tree.

Flooding was reported on Monday in northeastern Florida, including Jacksonville, where police were rescuing residents from waist-deep water.

"Stay inside. Go up. Not out," Jacksonville's website warned residents. "There is flooding throughout the city." The city also warned residents to be wary of snakes and alligators driven into the floodwaters. REUTERS

Cops release new details about arrest of suspects in Spring Garden dad's murder

Details are slowly trickling out about the two brothers who killed Gerard Grandzol.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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The two brothers who killed a Philly dad and neighborhood activist in a cold-blooded murder last week were both apprehended thanks to coordination with multiple law enforcement agencies and a couple of coincidences, police said Monday.

"Within a little less than 48 hours, we were able to get both suspects in custody and off the streets," said homicide unit Capt. Jack Ryan. "The men and women in the homicide investigations unit worked tirelessly, all Thursday, Friday, Saturday, through Sunday after the assignment was closed, just tightening matters up."

Maurice Roberts, 21, and his brother Marvin Roberts, 16, were both arrested in connection with the death of Gerard Grandzol, 38, who was shot to death outside his home on the 1500 block of Melon Street in Spring Garden in a botched robbery after parking his car with his 2-year-old daughter inside.

Grandzol reportedly cooperated with the thieves, handing over his wallet and car keys, but when he asked to get his daughter out of the car, he was shot twice in the face at point-blank range. The suspects then fled, leaving the car behind.

Marvin Roberts is charged as an adult with murder, and he allegedly pulled the trigger.

Ryan said he could not comment on the specifics of the investigation, but he noted that forensic evidence found at the scene led police to charge Maurice Roberts, who had six previous arrests and was on probation for an arrest selling marijuana in Center City. Marvin Roberts was on probation for a Jan. 5 assault case.

Residents' surveillance systems captured video and audio of the crime. SEPTA police were able to identify the suspects from transit surveillance cameras that caught them hopping on the Broad Street Line after the crime and traveling up to Erie Avenue.

The U.S. Marshals office apprehended Maurice Roberts at a hotel in New Jersey on Saturday morning, and he remains in custody in that state.

Marvin Roberts, meanwhile, was recognized near Broad and Venango streets by a police detective on the fugitive apprehension task force on Saturday evening and quickly arrested.

But police remained tight-lipped about further details, pending the prosecutions of the Roberts brothers. "We can't comment on their confessions," a police source said when asked if they had admitted to the crime.

Little is known about the brothers. Marvin Roberts was an aspiring rapper who had posted a few recordings on Soundcloud under the name "Erie Ave Mar" with titles like "Hunnit Shots" and lyrics about guns and drug deals.

Grandzol's family, which included his wife, a 2-year-old daughter and newborn baby girl, has received an outpouring of community support in the aftermath of his murder, with nearly $200,000 in donations raised on a Gofundme page as of Monday evening.

"It's terrible, one of the most horrific things I've seen in 24 years in the police department," Ryan said. "It was just a touch of evil."

Marvin Roberts, left, has been charged with the death of Gerard Grandzol, right. PROVIDED

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TRANSFORMING OUR REGION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

The future of the Philadelphia region rests in large part on an ability to secure infrastructure spending.

CLAIRE MARRAZZO GREENWOOD

Analysis

Last week, Congress returned to Washington, D.C., to begin work on a laundry list of legislative items, including extending the Children's Health Insurance Program, reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration, reforming our tax code and fixing the immigration system.

In September, Congress is in session only 12 days, so while we recognize there is a lot to do in a short amount of time, we'd like to add one more item to Congress' to-do list this fall: the passage of a transformative transportation infrastructure spending package.

Earlier this year, the CEO Council for Growth developed a plan identifying nine key infrastructure investment areas that will accelerate development, catalyze job growth, and transform our region. The plan in its entirety can be found at ceocouncilforgrowth.com.

The strategy calls for improvements to our global gateways by investing in the Northeast Corridor and our intercity passenger rail stations at 30th Street Station, Newark, Trenton and a new station at Philadelphia International Airport. In addition, it seeks to maximize the benefit of the Delaware River Deepening Project by improving direct access to the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal at Interstate 95.

Another strategy emphasizes the advancement of the 30th Street District Plan and Schuylkill Yards development. The group of projects includes upgrades to the ramps along I-76, improvements to the Civic Center Boulevard, and the Schuylkill River bridges from University Avenue to Spring Garden Street. The plan also calls for the addition of a Market-Frankford line station at 20th Street to support continued growth of Center City west.

This blueprint for growth also proposes to extend the Norristown High-Speed Line to better connect the King of Prussia, Center City and University City employment hubs; transform Roosevelt Boulevard to improve safety and efficiency; expand mass transit services at the Navy Yard to further accelerate commercial development; make upgrades at the Walter Rand Transportation Center to speed private investment at the Camden waterfront; and integrate neighborhoods currently divided by the Vine Street Expressway to reconnect isolated communities.

These new transportation investments must be made to accommodate and accelerate our outstanding development. The future of our region rests in large part on our ability to both secure infrastructure spending and activate new, innovative ways to direct more local resources to help rebuild and strengthen our communities.

The CEO Council for Growth looks forward to working with the administration and our regional congressional delegation, representing northern Delaware, southern New Jersey, and southeastern Pennsylvania, to pass a bipartisan infrastructure spending bill and secure funding for implementation of the projects that will help us become a truly global region.

Claire Marrazzo Greenwood is executive director and vice president of leadership engagement at the CEO Council for Growth. She can be reached at cgreenwood@ceocouncilforgrowth.com.

Various strategies have been developed to increase the effectiveness of the Philadelphia region's transportation infrastructure. GETTY IMAGES

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US Senate may vote this week to add penalties for sex traffic sites

The proposed law was prompted in part by frustrations over failed attempts to shut down backpage.com. GETTY IMAGES

Allowing a vote on the legislation would deal a major blow to the U.S. technology industry, which has vigorously opposed the measure, saying it would thwart digital innovation and lead to endless litigation.

The U.S. Senate may vote as soon as Tuesday on a bipartisan proposal that would make it easier to penalize operators of websites that facilitate online sex trafficking, according to four sources familiar with the matter.

The proposed law was prompted in part by frustrations over failed attempts to shut down the website backpage.com, which many law enforcement officials have accused of facilitating the exploitation of especially women and children to perform sexual services against their will. The company has long denied the allegations.

The Senate is expected to pass an annual defense policy spending bill this week, a process that will include consideration of amendments, some of which have yet to be publicly disclosed.

Among the amendments being considered is the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, which would change a section of a decades-old law that shields companies such as Facebook Inc., Amazon Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google from liability for content posted by their users, according to a Senate aide and three technology industry sources.

The sources, who requested anonymity to discuss ongoing private conversations, cautioned on Monday that the situation was fluid and the Republican Senate leadership might decide against allowing a vote on the amendment.

But they also said it was likely to pass if there was a vote, a possibility that has alarmed internet companies. The underlying defense bill is considered must-pass legislation but would need to be reconciled with the House of Representatives and signed by President Donald Trump before becoming law.

Republican Sen. Rob Portman introduced the online trafficking bill in August and has gained support from more than a fourth of the Senate.

Kevin Smith, a spokesman for Portman, declined to comment, saying only that the senator was focused on building more support for the measure.

The legislation would allow state attorneys general and victims of sex trafficking to pursue legal action against social media networks, advertisers and others who fail to keep exploitative material off their platforms.

Technology companies say the changes to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act would impose impossible demands on online publishers and quash innovation. But some lawmakers and attorneys have argued that the statute has been too broadly interpreted to give companies too much leeway in avoiding responsibility for harmful content.

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President Trump voters linked to lower life expectancy rates: New study

Prepare to be shocked: A report out of Boston University found that people who voted for Trump in the 2016 election have a lower life expectancy.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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What do we know about those who voted for President Donald Trump?

Well, his supporters may not live as long as those who voted for Hillary Clinton.

The general life expectancy rate in the United States rose by about five years between 1980 and 2016, but that increase didn't benefit all residents equally.

Some areas of the country saw no increase or even a decrease in life expectancy. According to a recent study out of Boston University, Trump voters were more likely to come from those areas.

Jacob Bor, a Boston University School of Public Health researcher, analyzed voting data from the 2008 and 2016 presidential elections as well as life-expectancy rates on the county level.

"The figures are just so stark," he said. "It really is that if life expectancy increased more than average, then by and large these counties were going for Hillary. If it increased less than average, or decreased, by in large those counties were going for Trump."

Between 2008 and 2016, Republicans lost about 67,000 votes in the counties where the life expectancy gains were above average. In the counties where the life expectancy increased by only three years or less, Republicans gained 3.1 million more votes.

There's irony here, Bor said, because the Republican party is less likely to invest in public policies like environmental regulation, occupational health and safety, health insurance for the poor.

"So what you see is see large parts of the country essentially voting for a candidate, and a party to be honest, that are proposing policies that are very likely to be detrimental to their health," he said.

3.1M

ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF VOTES REPUBLICANS RECEIVED IN COUNTIES WITH BELOW-AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY GAINS

There may not be causation to the relationship, Bor admitted, and he doesn't yet know why these counties voted in this way. It could be that people don't know about the link between policy and health outcomes or even that they care about other issues more so than their own health.

This research doesn't even tell us why people voted for Trump, Bor added, but "what it does tell us is that people who did vote for Trump are hurting, not just in the economic sense which people have talked about a lot, but also hurting in a real physical sense in terms of shortened life."

The next step, he hopes, is that at a political party figures out how to address the health needs of this population, so that no one is left out of any health gains.

Those who voted for President Donald Trump tend to come from counties with a lower life expectancy rate than the national average. GETTY IMAGES

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‘Fox and Friends’ host equates victims of 9/11 with defenders of slavery

“Fox and Friends” came under fire on Monday after one of its hosts compared a 9/11 memorial to Confederate statues. IMAGE VIA FOX NEWS

Confederate statues and 9/11 memorials are all the same and could be treated equally, a Fox News commentator said on the 16th anniversary of 9/11. In an interview with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday, “Fox and Friends” co-host Brian Kilmeade suggested that the 9/11 memorial for the passengers of United Flight 93 could meet the same fate as a statue of a Confederate general, at the hands of future generations.

“Do you worry that 100 years from now someone is going to take that memorial down like they are trying remake our memorials today?” Kilmeade asked, referring recent removal of statues for Confederate military leaders like Robert E. Lee.

“I’m one that believes that we should learn from history and I think our monuments are part of our country’s history,” Zinke replied, echoing President Donald Trump’s public sentiments. “We can learn from it. Since we don’t put up statues of Jesus, everyone is going to fall morally short.

Zinke might have pulled a drunk uncle, because there are statues of Jesus on public lands — including in his home state of Montana, “Big Mountain Jesus.”

More provocative than the response was the question. The “Fox and Friends” host was skewered on social media for comparing people who seceded from the union and rebelled against the United States to civilians who died as victims of terrorism on Sept. 11, 2001.

Fox News declined to comment, CNN reported.

Former Hillary Clinton spokesman Jesse Ferguson tweeted that Fox needs to “apologize to families of Flight 93 for comparing their bravery to confederate generals who fought against our nation.”

At a rally in Phoenix last month, Trump, who has called statue removals “sad” and “foolish,” praised “Fox and Friends.”

“‘Fox and Friends’ in the morning is the best show and it’s the absolute most honest show and it’s a show I watch,” he said.

KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA

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Moving photos from this year's 9/11 anniversary

Monday marked the 16th anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks.

In New York City, a ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial plaza honored the nearly 3,000 men, women and children killed in the attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, aboard Flight 93 and in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Here are some of the most poignant photographs captured during the remembrance events in New York, Washington and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. MORGAN ROUSSEAU

At left, a NYPD officer pauses during a commemoration ceremony. Above, a man at the Flight 93 National Memorial on the evening of Sept. 10, 2017, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Below, family members arrive at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City. At right, people listen during a memorial service at the Pentagon. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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Above, high school students draw the Twin Towers and write messages on the sidewalk in front of their school on Sept. 11, 2017, in New York. Below, a man bows his head at the Pentagon.

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Kim Kardashian wants privacy

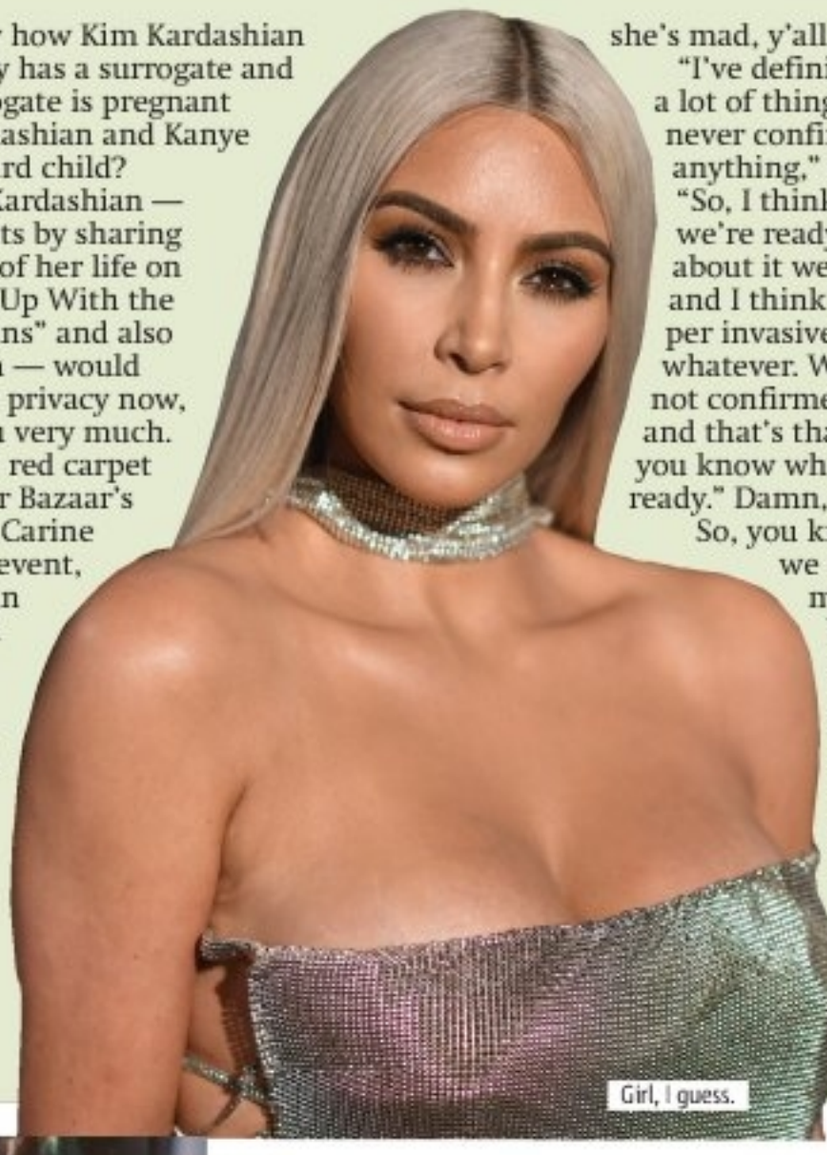
You know how Kim Kardashian reportedly has a surrogate and that surrogate is pregnant with Kardashian and Kanye West's third child?

Well, Kardashian — who profits by sharing a version of her life on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and also Instagram — would like some privacy now, thank you very much.

On the red carpet for Harper Bazaar's "Icons by Carine Roitfeld" event, Kardashian addressed the news of her supposed surrogate to E! News. And she's mad, y'all!

"I've definitely seen a lot of things, we've never confirmed anything," she said. "So, I think when we're ready to talk about it we will, and I think it's super invasive. ... Like whatever. We have not confirmed it, and that's that. I'll let you know when we're ready." Damn, Kimmy!

So, you know, if we could all mind our business unless she tells us not to, that would be great. For her.


Girl, I guess.

Baby girl is having a baby girl.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Mindy Kaling is having a girl

First, Oprah let slip that Mindy Kaling was several months into her pregnancy. Now, two of her co-stars on "The Mindy Project" have revealed even bigger news: Kaling is having a girl!

Beth Grant, who plays the unhinged-but-in-a-cute-way Beverly, got emotional, saying "I cried like a baby and that it's a girl. ... I'm very happy for her."

Ed Weeks, who plays the delightfully absurd Jeremy — really, "The Mindy Project" is a cast of overtly sitcom-y characters — noted that having a girl is a bit full circle for Kaling. "The show started as a tribute to her mother, who very sadly passed away just as the show is being picked up, and it ends with her having a daughter of her own. It's a lot," he explained. Aw.

Now, I'm just wondering who is going to tell us who the father is. I don't even care that much, but it feels intensely personal that Kaling isn't telling us her private business, you know?

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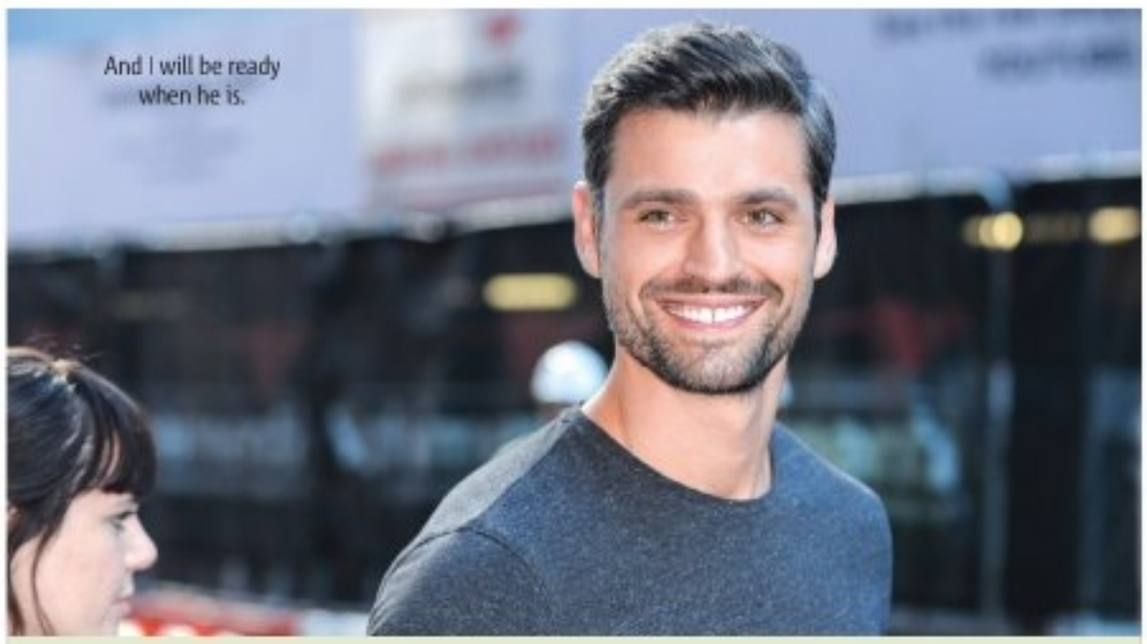
Does Demi Lovato have a new GF?

Looks like Demi Lovato — former child actress who is 1% African — has a new girlfriend. OK!

The "Sorry Not Sorry" singer was spotted at Disneyland holding hands with DJ/Producer/certified hottie Lauren Abedini. Naturally, some nosy person took photos of them galavanting around — holding hands and each others' butts — and posted them to Twitter.

Lovato has apparently alluded to her bisexuality in the past, saying, "I am not confirming and I'm definitely not denying. … I don't think there's anything wrong with experimentation at all." OK, girl. I see you!

Demi, if you ever listen to me, even if it's just this once, even though you don't know me and I don't have any bearing on your life whatsoever, I beg of you: Get it girl.



Peter Kraus could still be "The Bachelor"

Last week, ABC announced that the new bachelor wouldn't be hot Peter Kraus or hot Eric Bigger from "The Bachelorette," but a nobody named Arie Luyendyk Jr. A man who most certainly doesn't have the range.

Over the weekend, a cross Kraus wrote a long thesis about missing out on the opportunity via Instagram, saying "Never let fear hold you back." Deep!

No worries, though. There's still a possibility that Peter could be the Bachelor. You know, at some point in the future.

"We'll always be in touch with Peter, and there might be a time," said Rob Mills, ABC's head of reality programming. "It might be a year from now, when it's better for him."

So yeah, don't hold your breath or anything. But one day, that salt and pepper Prince Eric will come to our television screens with his roses and his cute lil' gapped teeth — and I will be there in what will likely be an ill fitting gown.

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The 'Insecure' finale was hella messy

The last episode of a standout season reminds us that these characters are flawed AF.

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
@rachaelclemz
rachael.clemmons@metro.us

Well, at least Issa (Issa Rae) and Molly (Yvonne Orji) still have each other. JUSTINA MINTZ/HBO

Sunday night's finale of "Insecure" was just fine. But among the fantasies of married life and being able to choose stability over passion, the last episode of the much-improved second season established, once again, that these characters are flawed AF. Sure, we can root for Issa or Molly — or Lawrence, for that matter. But they're going to continue to be messy. And they're going to messy for a good, long time.

In honor of the finale, we're asking five major questions about the finale: Who, what, when, where and why?

Who does Issa think she is?

OK, but really — in her mind she's fantasizing about the simple life with Lawrence, a life with their couch, a wedding, You know, like in grade school.

What is Daniel's deal?

gratuitous shots of his tush and a dang baby. But in real life? She's crashing with Daniel. This cannot go well. Who is Issa, really? And what does she want? It's pretty clear she has no idea.

When is Molly going to learn?

Speaking of, he should know better than to take in Issa at this point after her countless aggressions. Pining after someone is perfectly normal, but Issa has kind of been the worst to him. What is his motivation for rewarding her consistently horrible, selfish behavior?

Molly has always been fixated on what her relationships look like, as opposed to whether or not they nurture her emotionally. It's a mess! She finally finds a guy who likes her and supports her — but she's kind of over him because he has a "pastor body." Thing is, nobody is perfect — she opts for Dro, who is gargantuan, height-wise, and oh, also has a wife. Which is basically as emotionally unavailable as you can get, traditionally.

Where was Tiffany during the finale of "Due North?"

"Due North" — the fake show within the show that was essentially a comedic soap opera about slavery — was one of the best parts of this season of "Insecure." But Tiffany, the sole married member of Issa's crew, was mysteriously missing. The finale revealed she's pregnant, but it feels like there's something shady going on — and her relationship with her husband looks picture-perfect on the outside, but it would be unsurprising if it was less perfect from the inside.

Also who misses the "Due North" finale? Some sort of monster?

Why was Lawrence wearing a turtleneck, while Issa was wearing a (very cute) strappy number?

As a longtime resident of New York, perhaps I just don't understand Los Angeles weather patterns. Was this just an excuse to make Lawrence look like Carl Thomas, circa his 2000 release of "Emotional"? Because it worked. Lawrence looked great. Issa looked great too, but these two are not only on two different levels mentally, but they're also on two separate hemispheres.

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Will 'Preacher' ever live up to its potential?

"Preacher" is at its best when it's amping up the tenacious bond that Jesse (Dominic Cooper, above), Tulip and Cassidy share.
MICHELE K. SHORT/AMC/SONY PICTURES TELEVISION

From the very beginning, "Preacher" has teemed with potential. The AMC series, adapted from the popular comic book created by Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon, was brought to fruition by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg through sheer persistence. The pair behind hits like "Pineapple Express" had unsuccessfully pitched a "Preacher" adaptation after selling the screenplay for "Superbad." But that failure didn't manage to deter them.

"There were just a lot of iterations of it and we were always just very vocal," Rogen said last year. "That it was something we were big fans of and that we thought we could do a good job of adapting in some way."

Well, the second season of "Preacher" certainly proved enjoyable at times, good even. But the series is still woefully inconsistent. It never feels like it's living up to its best self.

"Preacher" is at its best when it's amping up the violence and the tenacious bond that Jesse (Dominic Cooper), Tulip (Ruth Negga) and vampire Cass (Joseph Gilgun) share, honoring the graphic novel from whence it came — which itself is super brash and delightfully over the top. At its worst, the series is bogged down by convoluted plotlines or unintentionally murky motivations.

Last night's finale, for example, had one or two too many bait and switches. Jesse was — then was not — being groomed as the new Messiah with a potential appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel" and a staged shoot out. The Saint of Killers' exit seemed too easy — was it part of Starr's plan all along? Tulip is dead, except she's probably not. And what in the actual f—k is going on with Eugene and Hitler?

The finale was admittedly as funny as the series has been in a bit — nobody can be as tender and aloof as Cass when he's smoking crack in the afternoon — and it capped off a disjointed season as satisfyingly as it could. Yet it still managed to leave our protagonists in a predictable place.

By the end, the series was less about the adventures the trio has, and more about the machinations of their relationships with each other. In the second half of the season, it's unclear why Cass and Tulip even hang with Jesse in the first place — he's got great hair, but he's essentially a f—kboi. And it's a shame: Watching these characters crackle off of each other is one of the best parts of the series. When they're having fun, the audience is, too.

All in all, it still seems like the supernatural Western can't quite figure out what it wants to be — but two seasons should have been plenty of time for "Preacher" to find its footing. Here's hoping the series gets a third season — and maybe it'll finally get out of its own way.

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS

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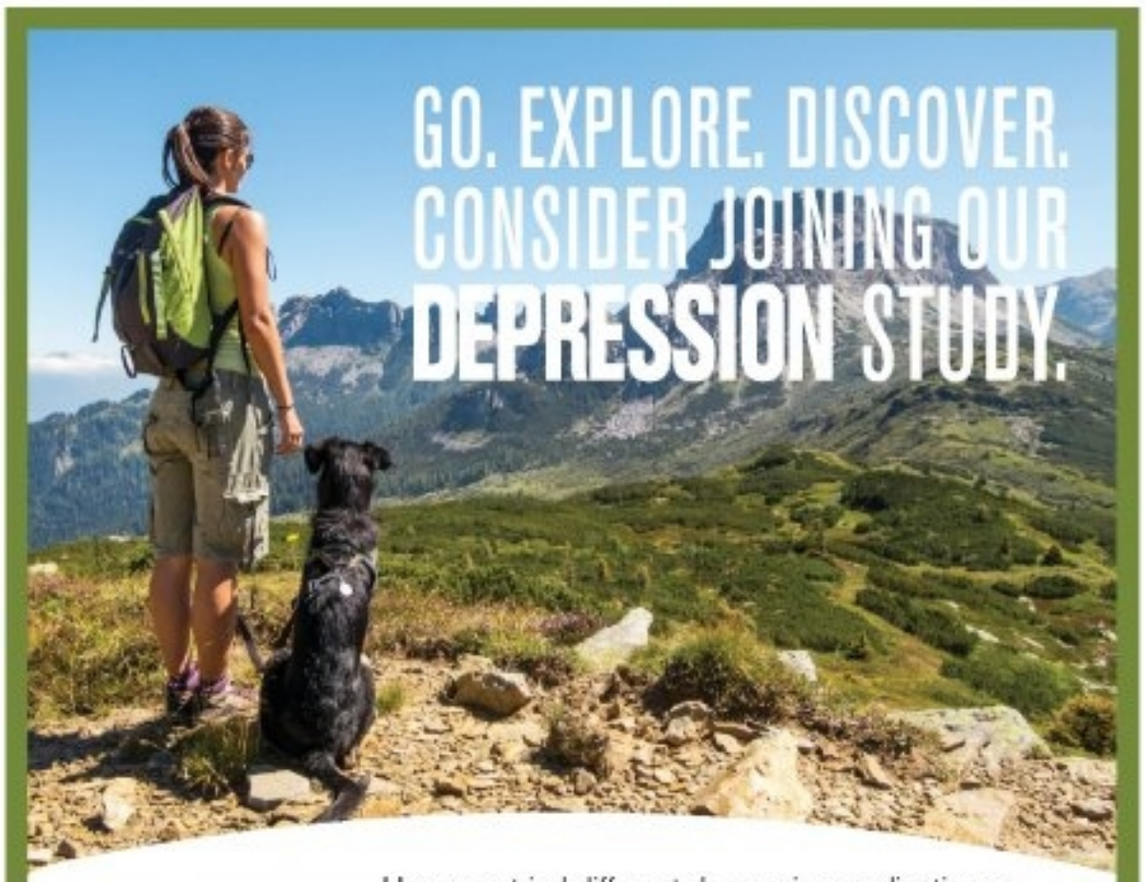

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John Fugelsang was in town last week doing promo for his new show.
PAGE SIX TV

John Fugelsang dishes on why he loves Philly

...whether or not our pizza holds up to New York.

JENNIFER LOGUE
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jennifer.logue@metro.us

Today, comedian and host of the soon-to-be-syndicated "Page Six TV" John Fugelsang stopped by Fox 29 to discuss what to expect from the new show as well as the many reasons why he loves Philadelphia.

"For me, I grew up admiring Philly. I'm a big history buff — my dad was a history teacher. I loved any chance I would get to come to Philly and appreciate how America started."

He adds, "As fun as the town is, you really get a sense as to what was at stake when this country began and how important Philly was to America becoming the place it was."

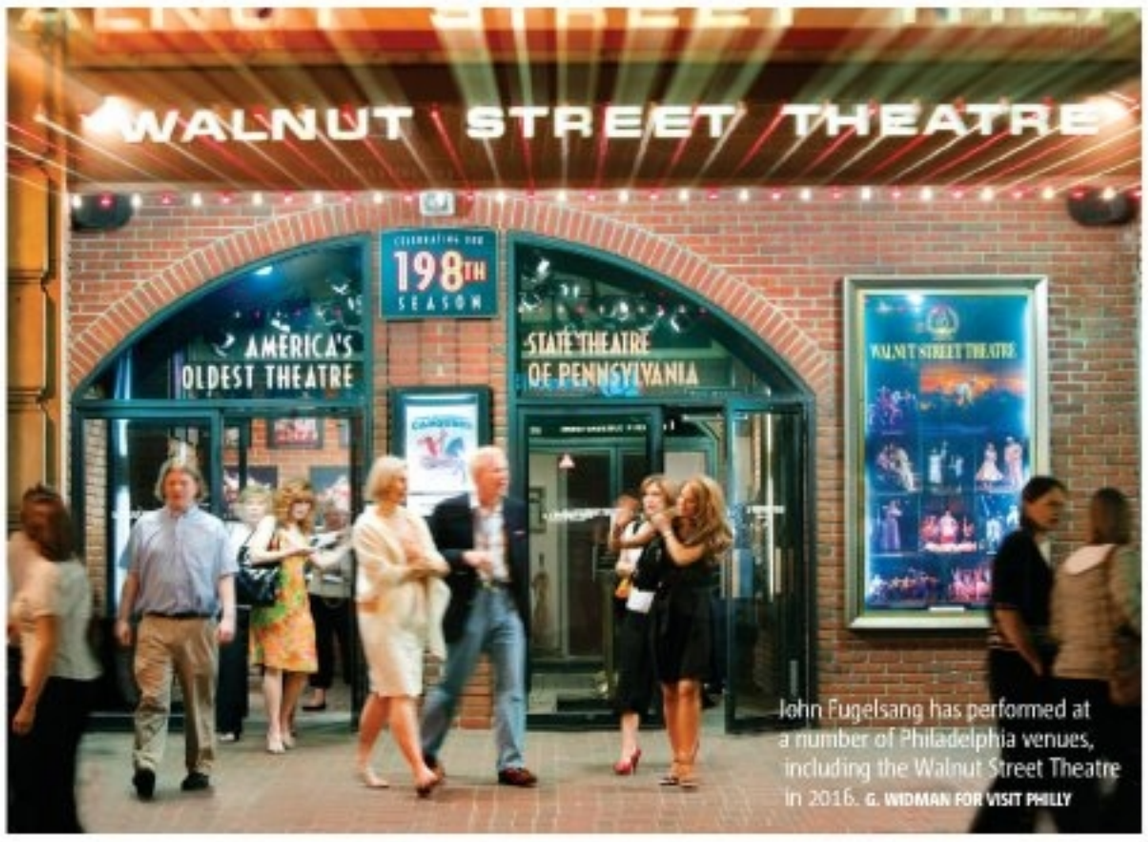
He also reflected on the early days of his career when he had one of his first comedy gigs here.

"One of my first college comedy gigs here was at the Philadelphia College of Textile and Science. Years later I got to perform here at the Walnut Street Theatre-and the Kimmel Center with my political comedy. The audiences are spectacular."

Now onto the most important matter of the day: Who has better pizza, New York or Philly?

"The pizza here is as good as the pizza in New York. Chicago puts us all to shame but Philly pizza is every bit as good as New York pizza," Fugelsang admits.

So we have that going for us, too. Who's hungry?



John Fugelsang has performed at a number of Philadelphia venues, including the Walnut Street Theatre in 2016. G. WIDMAN FOR VISIT PHILLY

Can plants make you less anxious?

wellbeing

Horticultural therapy can lower stress levels, blood pressure and improve a patient's sense of wellbeing. ISTOCK

Horticultural therapy, interaction in biophilic environments, can reduce stress and improve wellbeing.

KATE MOONEY
@yatinbrooklyn
kate.mooney@metro.us

Can keeping a plant on your desk at work help you have a better day? If you turn your apartment into a "house jungle," per the recent Washington Post trend piece on plant-loving millennials, will it improve your mental health or just makeover your Instagram feed? Studies have shown that spending time in nature can soothe the mind, but what is the effect of bringing nature to you?

Matthew J. Wichrowski is a senior horticultural therapist at the Rusk Rehabilitation Center at NYU Langone Medical Center. Every day, he uses plants and planting exercises to help rehabilitate patient suffering from mental and physical disabilities.

Wichrowski works out of the center's plant room, where patients stop in for hour-long sessions in "plant and sensory exploration." (There are also therapy bunnies!) For those who can't leave their ward, such as epilepsy and psychiatric patients, Wichrowski wheels a cart of plants to them.

In a typical session, "we explore the sensory aspect, touch and feel, describe the leaves, the colors and flowers, fragrance, and talk about how to use them," Wichrowski explains.

Wichrowski notes that spending time in a biophilic environment has psychological benefits, including improving one's mood and decreasing stress. He describes something called "attention restoration theory," the idea that concentrating on nature can give us a sort of mental vacation and improve our ability to focus afterwards — in effect, restoring our attention.

There are physical benefits, as well. A 2005 study, which Wichrowski co-authored, published in the Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation, found that horticultural therapy sessions led to a reduced heart rate in cardiac-rehabilitation inpatients.

There's also the psychological effect of caring for a living thing. At the end of each session, the patient selects a plant to repot and tend to him or herself, which fosters a sense of personal accomplishment and wellbeing, says Wichrowski.

Eliza Blank, the founder of The Sill, a plant room and delivery service in Manhattan, agrees that "surrounding yourself with plants is one of the most uplifting things you can do when it comes to your day-to-day emotional well-being," as she puts it.

"There's something to be said just for taking care of something, the relationship that you have. The plant depends on you for survival."

Plants can also detoxify indoor spaces, removing carcinogens in building materials and carpeting, such as formaldehyde, ammonia and benzene. The most well-known research into this is the 1989 NASA Clean Air Study, which studied which plants most effectively filtered the air in space stations.

If you're a newbie to the plant world, here are Blank's suggestions for easy-to-care-for shrubs to get started with.

For low lighting

ZZ Plant: "It can basically tolerate all light levels," from a stairwell to a dark corner of your apartment, Blank explains.

Snake Plant: Also known as mother-in-law's-tongue, the evergreen perennial thrives in low lighting and requires minimal watering.

Blank notes that because both the ZZ and the Snake Plant grow vertically, they function well as space savers, ideal for a small apartment or at your desk.

For medium light

Blank fancies a purplish, waxy rubber tree. "It has a little bit of color, it's a vertical grower, I water it once a week and it has beautiful thick, glossy leaves," she says.

If you have pets and need to keep your plants up high, she suggests hanging plants such as philodendrons or spider plants.

For bright light

If you are lucky to have bright light in your home or office, go for succulents, which don't require much water.

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EAGLES WEEK 1 WIN STIRS MEMORIES OF REID-MCNABB ERA

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OPINION

Glen Macnow has been an outspoken voice in Philly sports for nearly three decades.
@realglenmacnow

Carson Wentz's level of performance in his first year-plus of NFL action is sort of reminiscent of that of former Eagles' QB Donovan McNabb. GETTY IMAGES

Stop me if this sounds familiar. Season opener, second year for an Eagles QB who was the second-overall draft pick, coming off a losing season behind an inarticulate first-time coach whom critics declare unqualified.

The Eagles open on the road against an NFC rival they never beat and … they win by double digits.

Of course it's familiar. What Carson Wentz, Doug Pederson and friends pulled off in Washington on Sunday stirred echoes of 2000, when Donovan McNabb, Andy Reid and gallons of pickle juice shook the world with a 41-14 blowout opener at Dallas.

That was a franchise-changing afternoon (for both teams), and propelled the Eagles to an 11-5 record and five straight playoff appearances. Will this game do the same?

I'm half ready to believe so. My faith, of course, rests more in Wentz than Pederson.

Wentz was not infallible Sunday. His accuracy needs work and youthful overconfidence makes him hold the ball too long. But that's overshadowed by his ability to escape pressure and create huge plays — just like young McNabb. With his line getting pushed toward him much of the day, Wentz completed 67 percent of his attempts for 307 yards.

The play we'll remember is the 58-yard TD to Mr. Confidence, Nelson Agholor. Wentz eluded three potential sacks on the play, danced for eight seconds and, throwing off his back foot, side-armed a pillow into Agholor's hands 40 yards downfield.

It evoked déjà vu of McNabb's 2004 Monday Night scramble-and-heave to Freddie Mitchell. Or Randall Cunningham's astounding 95-yarder to Fred Barnett against Bruce Smith and the Bills in 1990.

Pederson, meanwhile, evoked memories of Andy Reid, although not all positive ones. He abandoned the run early, letting newcomer LeGarrette Blount watch much of the game from the bench. The Eagles ran 33 plays in the second and third quarters — 27 of them passes — while watching their 13-0 lead disappear. The coach also dialed up some oddly risky plays throughout the game.

But in the end, what counts is that his team earned a 13-point victory — on the road, where they lost their final seven games last year; in the division, where they went 2-4. Ugly win or not, it was a terrific way to start the season.

Pederson's players think he gets a bum rap from the likes of critic Mike Lombardi and whatever sources told the Inquirer last week that defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz is poised to take the head coach's job. They like Pederson. They're loyal. To that end, they punctuated the day by showering him in Gatorade, another gesture evoking older memories.

I'm sure the coach didn't mind the lingering stickiness as he answered questions. It had to feel refreshing after the harsh scrutiny. And it's easier to be embattled outside when you're embraced inside the locker room.

That scrutiny won't go away — Reid faced it through 13 seasons here. But if Pederson (and Wentz) can accomplish in their second season what Reid and McNabb did, well, maybe the critics will tone it down just a bit. And maybe there are many Gatorade showers to follow.

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Phillies 2018 season previews continue

The Phillies will play their 15th straight game against an NL East opponent Tuesday night when they return to Philadelphia to start their penultimate homestand, a 10-game stint hosting the Marlins, Athletics and Dodgers. Nick Pivetta, Aaron Nola and Jake Thompson are all slated to start against Miami this week, giving fans the chance to watch three young stud pitchers as the team continues its rebuild. GETTY IMAGES

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Injuries to Darby, Peters, Sturgis could prove costly

The Eagles will likely need a new kicker for a few weeks and some cornerback help from a young prospect.

EVAN MACY
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The Eagles won, 30-17, in Washington on Monday but they paid a high price.

A handful of key Eagles players' fates are in doubt after noncontact injuries took their toll on one of the NFL's healthiest teams heading into Week 1. Here's the latest:

1 Ronald Darby, CB, (ankle)

Darby twisted his ankle in the second quarter while defending a screen pass Sunday and was carted off the field. With many fearing the worst, reports Monday revealed it was an ankle dislocation. NFL Network also suggested that Darby's injury carries a four-to-six week recovery timeframe — much better than what could have been a much more serious Achilles injury.

However Doug Pederson is not confirming the injury's severity.

"I haven't seen that yet," he said when asked about Darby on Monday. "Just talking with our doctors, we're gathering more information before we make a full statement."

With the No. 1 cornerback sidelined for at least a month, someone needs to step up — most likely rookie Rasul Douglas, who did not dress for the Redskins game.

"We do have Rasul sitting there and C.J. [Smith], obviously," Pederson said. "But we'll look at it, talk with [defensive coordinator Jim] Schwartz in the next couple days and have a plan. If he can't go, then possibly Rasul."

2 Jason Peters, LT, (groin)

Peters appeared to pull his groin in the first half Sunday and was listed as questionable to return. Of course, he didn't, and protection for Carson Wentz seemed to suffer a but with the Eagles' quarterback facing pressure throughout the second half.

The injury seems to be much less serious and he could be back in Week 2 in Kansas City.

"Big V [T Halapoulivaati Vaitai] I thought stepped in, and with really limited reps at tackle during the week and did well," Pederson said, implying that Big V would likely start against the Chiefs if Peters remains injured next weekend.

3 Caleb Sturgis, K, (hip)

Another injury that could have quite the impact on the Birds is their kicker, who was too hurt to attempt the Eagles extra point after Fletcher Cox scored on a recovered fumble in the fourth quarter. The Eagles will be trying out kickers this week, and if the injury is as bad as it sounds, they'll have a new man place-kicking soon.

"It was early in the game, and it's just his lower body, his hip," the coach said.

Reports from Ian Rapoport suggested that the Eagles would for sure need a new kicker, as Sturgis was expected to "miss several weeks."

If Ronald Darby misses significant time it will certainly impact the Eagles defensive success against NFC East teams. GETTY IMAGES

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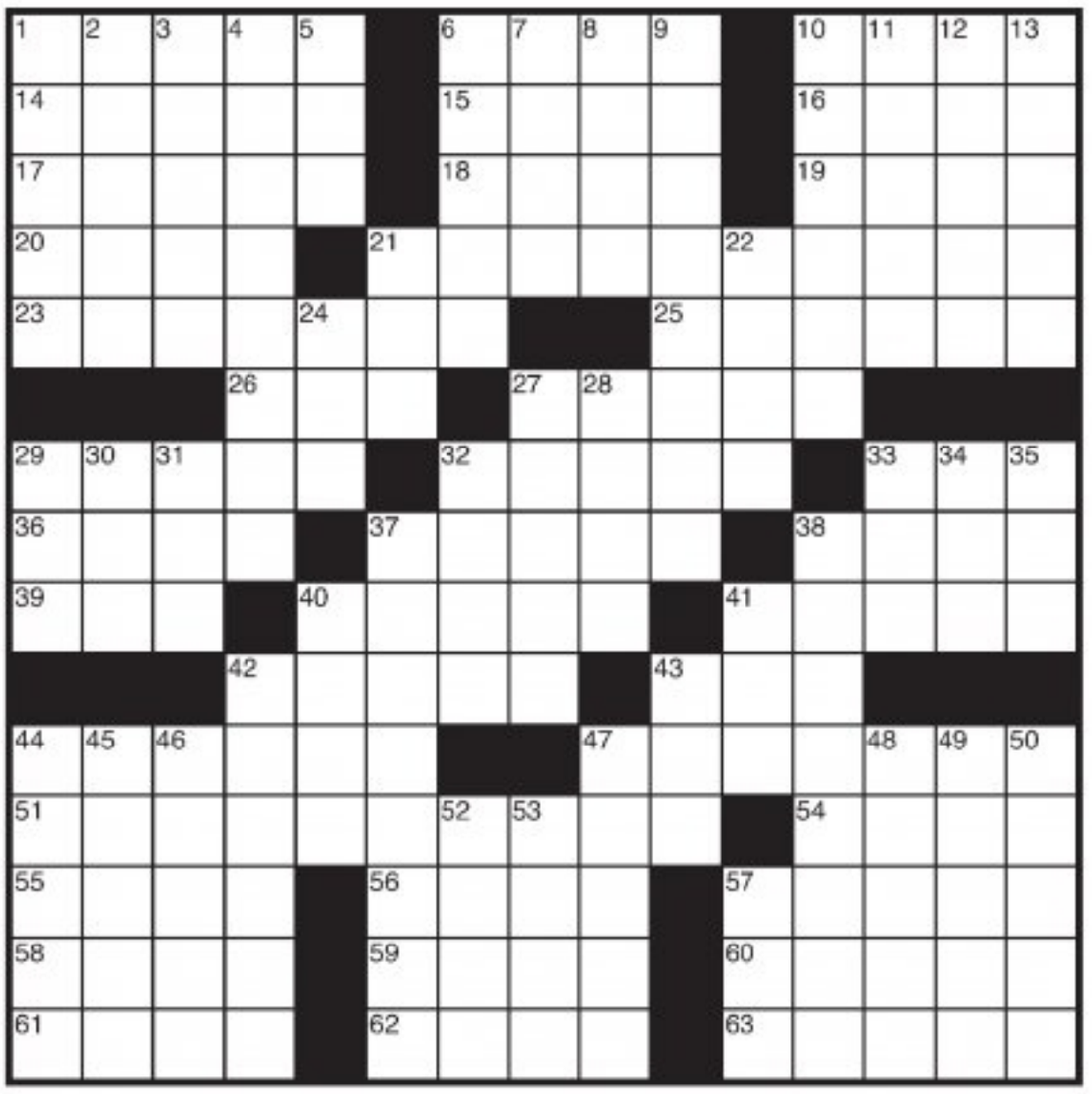

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Aries Personal matters concerning parents, siblings or friends will slow you down. Offer patience and compassion. Anger will not alleviate pressing matters. Do your best.

Taurus Don't trust someone who has let you down in the past. Picking a fight will not help you resolve issues. Stick to people you know you can count on.

Gemini Stay close to home and nurture personal relationships. Implement changes that add to your appeal. Getting along with others is in your best interest.

Cancer Rumors will roll if you divulge secrets. Respect others and demand the same in return. Avoid getting angry by not putting yourself in a precarious position to start.

Leo Don't give in to someone who wants something that belongs to you or who uses emotional manipulation for monetary gain. Arguing is a waste of time. Say no.

Virgo Emotions will be difficult to control when dealing with children, siblings or a friend who has let you down. Honesty and compassion will lead you to happiness.

Libra You'll learn from the experiences you have. Get involved in an event. Volunteer your time and energy. A physical challenge will do you good. Romance is on the rise.

Scorpio Use your intuition when dealing with investments or joint ventures. Refuse to give in to someone's charm or salesmanship. Go it alone if you have doubts. Do things your way.

Sagittarius Partnerships will undergo an adjustment. Discussions will be necessary and could cause some anger and disagreements, but in the end, you'll come up with a plan.

Capricorn Getting involved in a joint venture or a risky investment is best avoided. A personal commitment will bring you closer to someone you love.

Aquarius Think before you speak. Don't take on so much that you won't have time to spend with the people in your life who need you the most. Romance will do you good.`

Pisces Partnerships will suffer if either party is not honest about how they feel and what's going on. Don't neglect to address issues that are bound to escalate. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

L	E	G	U	M	E	■	B	O	N	■	H	A	S	P
O	P	E	N	E	D	■	L	A	O	■	A	N	I	L
S	A	T	U	R	N	■	A	S	U	■	L	A	N	A
■	■	■	S	C	A	N	D	I	N	A	V	I	A	N
C	A	G	E	Y	■	Y	E	S	■	V	I	S	I	T
R	A	I	D	■	X	L	S	■	C	A	N	■	■	■
O	R	B	■	B	R	O	■	N	E	I	G	H	E	D
W	O	E	■	R	A	N	■	I	L	L	■	E	T	E
E	N	D	W	A	Y	S	■	E	L	S	■	A	U	G
■	■	■	H	I	S	■	P	C	S	■	A	L	D	A
C	A	S	A	S	■	L	E	E	■	F	U	S	E	S
A	P	P	R	E	H	E	N	S	I	O	N	■	■	■
P	R	O	V	■	O	D	D	■	O	C	T	A	N	E
R	I	C	E	■	P	O	E	■	N	A	I	L	E	D
I	L	K	S	■	I	N	D	■	S	L	E	A	Z	Y

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